

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

STEARNS, Cliff (Republican)  
Representative, 6th District, Florida  
Elected 1988 to 101st Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



## BACKGROUND

Born: Washington, District of Columbia - 16 April 1941

Home: Ocala, Florida

Marital Status: Married (Joan) - 3 children

Religion: Presbyterian

Education: George Washington Univ, BS, 1963

Military: US Air Force, 1963-67; Captain

Profession: Hotel executive

Political: No previous office. Defeated Jon Mills (D) in the 1988 general election with 53% of the vote to succeed Rep Buddy MacKay who ran for the Senate. Unopposed in 1998 and 2000. Reelected in 2002 with 65% of the vote.

Rep Stearns was an active proponent of "traditional values" even before the elections of the 90s brought waves of culturally conservative Republicans to the House.

In the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress, describing the defense budget, said there have been massive cuts in the area of weapons procurement while using American troops in the role of social workers on humanitarian missions around the world. (CR, 4May99) Requested a meeting with the AF to hear the AF's reaction to a Newsweek article claiming there was a coverup of the actual number of tanks destroyed during Operation Allied Force.

Expressed an interest in forming an Air Force Caucus on the Senate side. Offered an amdt prohibiting the use of any funding to restrict military recruiting at secondary schools (CR, 6/15/2000, H4284-5). Commented on a May 3, 1999 NY Times report on an intelligence threat to a nuclear weapons lab, observing that this case may be the worst espionage committed against the Nation. Believed a strong national defense is a better alternative to an unverifiable test ban treaty. Made remarks in support of the F-22 in CR (7/22/1999, H6275). Opposed DeFazio amdt to reduce F-22 funding.

In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress, believed that events surrounding the collision of the Chinese fighter with an American plane were an indication that our relationship with China needs to be carefully reevaluated. Also, said he could see nothing to support the statement that granting permanent normal trade relations with China would help bring reform to this Communist government and establish a real friendship between the two countries. Appointed to the Canada-US Interparliamentary Group. Warned that the Russians are cooperating with Iran, a terrorist state which intends to expand its reach through that vital region. Speaking in support of H.R. 725, a Made in America bill, insisted that "if a universal black beret is going to serve as a symbol for the United States Army in the 21st Century, it should not be made in China." Drew attention to the deteriorating state of the Lafayette-Escadrille Memorial located west of Paris which honors American World War I aviators who flew for France. Urged support for funding the restoration of the memorial.

In the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress, criticized the embedded press for "generating an emotional story" rather than being more supportive of our troops on the eve of war with Iraq.

Additional: Chairman and charter member of Air Force Caucus.

AF Bases: None. NAS Jacksonville, in neighboring 3<sup>rd</sup> District, employs many constituents

## COMMITTEES

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